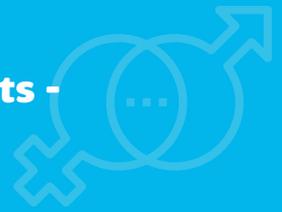


# Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights - SRHR and the relation with HIV



## Problem

SRHR and HIV often share the same causes such as poor access to education and healthcare services, poverty and gender inequality. The approach of both must be connected and mutually reinforcing.

Most HIV infections are sexually transmitted or during the pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding. Sexually transmitted diseases (STD) can increase the risk of HIV contagion.

## 50%

A study in South Africa showed that young women who experience partner violence have 50% more chance of being infected with HIV.



## <50%

Less than half of the youths in an Ethiopian study appear to be aware that unprotected sex can also result in pregnancy. Most adolescents know that unprotected sex can result in HIV infection.



## 1.5 million

In 2013 an estimated 1.5 million women with HIV gave birth and 240,000 infants contracted HIV during childbirth.



## 3x higher

Every day 1 million people are infected with sexually transmitted diseases (STD). Some STD also triple the risk of HIV infection.



## The importance and the advantages of linking SRHR with HIV

- ✓ A better understanding, protection and more guarantees of the right of good health;
- ✓ Better quality of care and better access to and use of services for SRHR and HIV;
- ✓ Better protection against unintended pregnancies, HIV and other STD;
- ✓ Better access for marginalised population groups and groups which have insufficient access to healthcare services;
- ✓ People with HIV and AIDS have better access to SRHR services;
- ✓ Complementarity in terms of policy and legislation;
- ✓ Better use of the scarce healthcare professionals, improved programme effectiveness and efficiency, less duplication and less competition for scarce resources.



# Toolkit: what can you do?

## Do you want to find out

For more information, see the corresponding factsheet: <https://diplomatie.belgium.be/sites/default/files/downloads/srhr-2017-infofiche-hiv-en.pdf>

You can learn more about SRHR via the unique online e-tutorial with useful videos and questions on [www.bodyandrights.be](http://www.bodyandrights.be)

### Policy coherence

Strengthen ties between the SRHR and HIV policy in national legislation, investigate operational plans and directives.



### Integration

Promote integrated services. There is interaction between SRHR and HIV in policy, programmes and in service provisions. The integration of SRHR and HIV is crucial.



### Health system

Help improve social determinants of health (e.g. healthcare promotion at school).

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This information sheet is intended to help stakeholders of Belgian development cooperation such as diplomats, BTC staff and representatives of NGOs better understand the relation between SRHR and gender, to promote a gender-oriented approach in the policy dialogue about SRHR and in the programme cycle and to identify the needs and good practice examples. This publication was developed by the SRHR Work Group of the Be-cause Health platform, with the support of the FGD Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.